WBALTV 11

Statue of Liberty marks 140th birthday after 1886 dedication in New York Harbor

By Sydney Hartman, *October 28, 2026*



On Oct. 28, 1886, the Statue of Liberty was dedicated in New York Harbor by President Grover Cleveland.

The statue was a gift from France to the United States in honor of the alliance between the two countries during the American Revolution.

The sculpture is officially titled “Liberty Enlightening the World” and was forged by Frederic-Auguste Bartholdi.

The statue alone stands 151 feet tall (305 feet and 1 inch from the ground below the base to the tip of the torch). It is made of sheets of copper, which has naturally oxidized to form the outer green coating.

It was designated a national monument in 1924. Visitors can go inside the statue and are able to climb hundreds of stairs to the top of the crown for a breathtaking view.

Video above: EarthCam shows Statue of Liberty during earthquake